



K Division Special Tactical Operations

ROSTER

PROTEST - COUTTS / SWEETGRASS BORDER CROSSING

PROS File: 2022-111482
IO: 749810

SITUATION

Background

As of Saturday January 29, 2022, an organized convoy was initiated in Lethbridge and it travelled onto Highway 4 to the Coutts border crossing. The convoy conducted a loop at the Coutts highway scales before blocking all north and south bound traffic. The protestors were comprised of mostly commercial vehicle operators mingled with a number of personal vehicles with a plan to attempt to block the North and South bound lanes at Coutts border crossing.

A GoFundme page and twitter account has been established to convey messaging throughout North America with supporters such as Donald Trump Jr. and Elan Musk.

The organizers have indicated the blockade will remain in place until the Canadian Federal Government removes all vaccination restrictions. Approximately 2500 trucks and supporters are expected to attend to multiple blockade sites.

As a result of the attention received by the protestors the RCMP planned for a deployment of 76 STO members. Additional resources from general duty and traffic service also responded.

During the days that followed there was a gradual increase of supporters and truckers involved in the convoy.

On Wednesday, February 2, 2022 an ACP was situated at highway 4 and highway 501 south of Milk River (recognized as Checkpoint 10). This check point has been able to filter trucks travelling to the border crossing and checking manifest.

There are currently twelve checkpoints that have been established by police to mitigate any convergence of vehicle or pedestrian traffic that would affect the flow of traffic. The checkpoints will also allow for Tac members and vehicles to travel an unimpeded route to the Coutts border crossing.

Organizers have indicated a route will remain open to allow the passing of livestock vehicles, emergency vehicles and border staff. A lane of traffic continues to be blocked both northbound and southbound. The full access of the highway has not been restored due to the protestors.

As of February 2, 2022 traffic through the international border has been resumed, however sporadic road blockades by protestors have continued to occur at Checkpoint 10 and the weigh station.

The Saloon situated at highway 4 and 1st Avenue North (a coffee shop) is supporting the truckers and has been utilized as the official staging and or headquarters for the protestors.



K Division Special Tactical Operations ROSTER PROTEST - COUTTS / SWEETGRASS BORDER CROSSING

On February 7, 2022 E division tactical support group (TSG) members supplemented the K division members at Coutts International border crossing. TSG and STO have blended teams.

On February 7, 2022 TSG and STO resources departed the Coutts International border at approximately 1800 hours. At approximately 2100 hours a farm tractor was noted stunting in the area. The members assigned to checkpoint 3 attempted to intervene when the farm tractor drove forward narrowly missing hitting police vehicles.

Shortly thereafter, additional farm tractors joined in and blocked the highway at the Coutts International border crossing. This area remained blocked for approximately six hours and was unblocked about 0300 hours.

On February 8, 2020 TSG and STO resources returned to Coutts International border with staggered shifts to allow for two QRT team to remain on site till 0200 hours to allow for police presence.

On February 11, 2020 five "E" Div TSG returned to BC, returning to their substantive duties, followed by the remaining 19 TSG members in the early afternoon of Saturday, February 12.

The current operational period for STO resources is Saturday, February 12 through Wednesday, February 16, 2022. Each operational period will run for 5 days with a travel day immediately before and after (7 days' total deployment). Once the "E" Div TSG resource depart, there will be 42 STO members on site.

STO resources will be split between the Coutts International Border and Milk River.

Current Situation

On February 12, 2022 at 1200 hours STO confirmed that the following vehicles were parked at the following locations:

The Saloon: 6 Commercial vehicles, 13 RV's and 26 personal vehicles.

The 'Site' on Hwy 4 Northbound: 14 Commercial vehicles.

The 'Site' on Hwy 4 Southbound: 14 commercial vehicles 1 personal vehicles.

The "Site" (Main Intersection): 16 farm tractors, 1 commercial vehicle

Checkpoint 5: 51 personal vehicles, 7 RV's, 0 commercial vehicles and 1 motorcycle.

CP 10: 258 personal vehicles, 30 commercial vehicles, 23 farm tractors 168 RV's and 4 horse trailers.

CP 14: Changes by the minute, vehicles are screened and moved.



K Division Special Tactical Operations
ROSTER
PROTEST - COUTTS / SWEETGRASS BORDER CROSSING

THREAT ASSESSMENT

Threat Assessment is currently at a medium risk. Intelligence obtained has indicated ex-military personnel have been hired to provide security at the saloon. These ex-military personnel are believed to have access to firearms. During the past week the protest group has grown in numbers.

During an initial confrontation with STO members a protester questioned the member on the attendance of Antifa supporters.

On February 7, 2022 a general duty member was approached by an unknown male that stated that he was Antifa and more would be coming. To date Intelligence analyst was not able to confirm any Antifa involvement at this time.

On February 7, 2022 a tractor narrowly missed hitting a police vehicle at checkpoint 3. This can be considered as a potential threat or act of violence against the police and an indication of escalating behaviors of some people.

On February 9, 2022 at approximately 17:00 hrs Ops initiated enforcement action at CP10. Data was collected to identify vehicles participating in the illegal blockade.

On February 12, 2022 a family of 4 were treated at CP10 for carbon monoxide poisoning. The family was powering their RV with a generator that was placed inside the unit.

Based on social media and news coverage along with the multiple other protests occurring worldwide. Any police action taken at this location must consider the ramifications this may have worldwide.

It can also be inferred that based on the media coverage received worldwide there is a high likelihood that other professional protestors may attend this location in efforts to escalate the situation. Threat assessment will be continually assessed.

On February 13, 2022, at 19:39 hrs a farm tractor with a large plow blade and a semi-truck ran at the police vehicle staffing checkpoint 5. The PMV was able to move just in time to avoid being destroyed by the farm tractor. The tractor and the semi proceeded to the Saloon they parked. Both vehicles were seized by STO and ERT. Occupants were arrested.

In the early morning hours of February 14, the militant group was located at arrested at Personal Info
Personal Info Coutts. 8 subjects were arrested and the following was seized:

s.37



K Division Special Tactical Operations ROSTER PROTEST - COUTTS / SWEETGRASS BORDER CROSSING

MISSION

1. To uphold the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms,
2. To restore the flow of traffic on Highway 4 in both directions,
3. To maintain the critical infrastructure and operations at or near the Coutts Border Crossing, and
4. To conduct any activities in accordance with lawful authorities, RCMP Policy, and the Incident Management Intervention Model.

EXECUTION

Resources:

A total of 73 STO members on site. This includes 5 EMRT that are available for deployment into operations to contain and clear the blockade at the town of Coutts.

Containing the Blockade

Total Road Blockade (all lanes blocked)- Mandatory full team deployment.

Start time 10:00 hrs, Tuesday, February 15, 2022. One by one starting from the North, each vehicle will be approached by one section comprised of 8 STO members, and accompanied ERT and EGT. Each vehicle driver/owner/occupant will be arrested. If entry to the vehicle is required, ERT will use what ever means are necessary to open the vehicle and arrest and remove the occupant. The occupant will be transitioned to an arrest team member who will escort the subject to Sheriff transport for removal from site and processing. This process will be repeated vehicle by vehicle until the blockade is swept clear of all occupants and the area is contained.

While each vehicle is approached by ERT and EGT, the 8 STO members (1 section) will take up a position at the front of the vehicles in a blocking formation to prevent interference from other participants of the blockade. (4 members split into the north bound and south bound lanes to move simultaneously.)

The remaining sections of STO will be staged approx. 50 metres further to the north, this will provide protection from anyone approaching from the north, but also in a position to bolster the forward section of STO. As the team moves through the blockade from north to south, the remaining sections will take up flanking positions on the east and west shoulders to intercept and arrest anyone that attempts to enter the blockade. As the team advances, this formation will eventually envelope the entire blockade and act as a containment team. Embedded within this



**K Division Special Tactical Operations
ROSTER
PROTEST - COUTTS / SWEETGRASS BORDER CROSSING**

containment “bubble” should be members of the STO Team’s Less Lethal team and PDS.

Anyone effectively interfering with the arrest, when appropriate, will be arrested (as their actions dictate, Mischief, Assault P.O. etc.) processed and removed.

This movement will require a minimum 40 STO members to execute. The remaining STO members will be staged to relieve the members on site as this is expected to take several hours in high winds, snow and sub zero temperatures.

*******STO is requesting GD resources to transport all arrested individuals *******

*******This plan is contingent on the Sheriff’s or GD members to transport arrested individuals. ******

*******STO members will only be able to maintain this posture for a maximum of a 12 hr rotation. Additional resources will be required to assume control of the site over night, however containment may be accomplished over night with less resources depending on crowd behaviour, number of protesters arrested and the number of vehicles on site.******

Clearing the Blockade:

While the containment of the blockade is in place, and all vehicles are considered seized, one by one each vehicle will be checked for keys and operational status. If the vehicle is drivable in a safe manner, appropriately trained/certified drivers will remove the vehicle to be stored at a secured compound/storage site to be determined by silver command/DEOC. Marked police escort will be required for each group of vehicles being removed.

If the vehicles are not in a position to be operated, they will be removed one by one via tow trucks and taken to the previously identified secured compound/storage area.

Once the blockade is cleared a smaller contingent of GD members should remain actively patrolling the immediate area to ensure the blockade is not re-established 1 or 2 days later.

Considerations

Prisoner processing and transport must be arranged by DEOC/Incident Command. This falls outside of the Tactical Troops capabilities while holding containment.

Clearing of the entire blockade is expected to take 1 to 2 days depending on the amount of commercial vehicles, farm tractors and their operational status.



K Division Special Tactical Operations ROSTER PROTEST - COUTTS / SWEETGRASS BORDER CROSSING

ADMINISTRATIVE

- All costs to be covered under K0961 (DEOC selected collator)
- Accommodations to be obtained in Lethbridge
- DEOC to arrange for transportation for the 3 tactical troops in coordination with "K" Div STO. (Sprinters, bus or 15 pers passenger vans for Troop #3)
- Each member is responsible for bringing their full issued gear (s.37 [REDACTED] gear, safety glasses, molded ear pieces, radios etc.)

COMMAND, CONTROL AND COMMUNICATIONS

Troop movements to be communicated on a dedicated channel (TBD)
Troop Commander – TBD
Troop NCO - TBD

